PA 11-202—sHB 6410 (VETOED)
Planning and Development Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REVISION OF MUNICIPAL CHARTERS

SUMMARY: By law, a commission appointed to draft or amend a municipal charter or amend a home rule ordinance must consider (1) the changes or items specified in the petition that initiated the adoption or revision process, if applicable, and (2) anything else the appointing authority (i.e., legislative body) recommends. Under prior law, the commission could consider additional changes or items it deemed desirable or necessary. This act prohibits a commission appointed on or after October 1, 2011 from considering additional items or changes without the appointing authority's authorization.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

BACKGROUND

Charter Adoption and Revision Process

The law authorizes towns to adopt or amend a charter or amend a home rule ordinance and specifies the process for doing so. The town's legislative body or the town's voters can initiate the process by resolution or petition, respectively. The legislative body must appoint a commission, which must consider any item the legislative body or the petition specifies.

The commission and the legislative body must hold public hearings on the proposal according to a statutory schedule. The legislative body can recommend changes to the commission's proposal, but the commission does not have to accept them. After the commission finalizes its proposed charter or amendments, the legislative body can accept or reject all or parts of it. Voters can petition for a referendum on the rejected parts.

The legislative body must decide, by majority vote, the forum for submitting the proposal for voter approval. The referendum must be held no later than 15 months after the legislative body approved the proposal or the respective clerks certified the petition. The legislative body must also decide whether to submit the proposal to the voters as a single question or several questions (CGS § 7-191).

OLR Tracking: RP:KS:VR:ts